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Prologue

[image] [image]

((Picture is of Hood))

A dark ginger-and-white tabby tom stood over a ginger she-cat with a black underbelly. His green eyes showed sympathy and remorse, for the she-cat was his mate. One of her ears was severed through the middle, the other missing. She now had only half a tail which was half a bloodied stub, and had several deep wounds on her body. Two kit's lay mewling beside her. One of the kit's looked just like the father, a dark ginger tabby tom with green eyes, and the other was a black tabby she-kit with white stripes, white paws, and white tail-tip. "I'm so proud of you kits...." She purred, her voice ragged and hoarse. "You did very well." She smiled up at her mate. "And you f-fought well, Hood...." Hood looked like crying. "P-Patch?! N-N-No! You can't leave me now!" He buried his head into her bloodied fur. "Think of all we've done together!" He opened his eyes as her pelt stopped it's gradual rise and fall. "Patch?... Patch!!?? PATCH!" As the kits mewled, Hood stared blankly at his mate.

Chapter 1

[image] [image]

((Picture is of Starpaw and Foxpaw))

"Starkit! Starkit!"

Starkit's eyes fluttered open. Thunderclaw nudged the black tabby she-kit awake. "it's time for your apprenticeship." Starkit leapt to her paws, her pelt ruffled. "I forgot! Let's go!" "Not looking like that your not!" The TreeClan warrior had adopted Starkit and her brother Foxkit after he found them wandering in the Leaf-Bare cold, and had been looking after them ever since.

"All cat's old enough to catch their own prey, please gather under the High Branch for a Clan meeting!" Starpaw scrambled away from Thunderclaw after he helped her groom her fur down and rushed after Foxpaw as the two siblings scrambled onto the overhanging oak tree branch beside Whitestar. "It is time for Starkit and Foxkit to become apprentices. Foxkit, you will become Foxpaw. Your mentor will be Stoneclaw. Stoneclaw, come meet your new apprentice." Stoneclaw nodded and leapt onto the rock and licked his apprentice once in-between the ears. He would now be his mentor for good.

Whitestar smiled at Starpaw. "I believe you have great potential, and your a good strong cat. For this, I will be your mentor, Starpaw." He licked her once between the ears and ended the Clan meeting. "Time for battle training!" Starpaw perked up and started following him to the training hollow, when she saw the shadowy figures of cats in the undergrowth. "Who's there!?" she called, her fur bristling. A huge dark grey tabby appeared through the bushes. It was Stormstar! He growled and leapt at her, claws unsheathed. She yowled in pain as he raked his claws over her ear, but she jumped onto his back and sunk her claws into his fur. He hissed and

shook her off, then pinned her down. "Get, OFF HER!"

Whitestar wrestled the NightClan leader as they rolled over and over, trying to pin each other down. Finally, Whitestar pinned Stormstar under his weight and put his claws on the tom's neck. "Move, and i'll claw your throat out!" Whitestar's aggression startled Starpaw, as she had never seen the snowy white tom so angry. His amber eyes blazed as he pressed the tom into the ground. "You'll pay for treating her like you did!" "Whitestar, stop!" Starpaw cred as she pushed him off Stormstar. "You shouldn't do this! This is against the Warrior code! What would Foreststar say?"

Whitestar dug his claws into the ears. "Foreststar is gone! This is the present! And he needs to pay for daring to claw you!" Stormstar hissed and turned to his warriors. "Retreat! Retreat!" and they fled into the forest.

"Starpaw," He panted. "Are you OK? Your claw marks looks bad. Does Featherpelt need to heal them?" She shook her head. "I'm fine. Let's go to battle training." "OK. By the way, good job Starpaw. you fought very well." She tensed as he nuzzled her ears and padded ahead. Was that a sign of... Affection? "Now, lets learn how to dodge." He announced once they were in the training hollow. She frowned. "But that's so boring!" Whitestar sighed. "Fine. Let's learn how to claw your opponent. Pretend I'm one of those NightClan warriors."

Starpaw nodded and dropped into a crouch as if she was hunting prey, then sprang at him and knocked him off his paws, then pretended to claw him over the ear with claws sheathed. Whitestar got to his paws and smiled. "Well done, Starpaw!" He looked at the sky and flicked his tail. "It's time we get back to camp. You get first pick off the fresh-kill pile for your bravery today!" "Ya!" she cheered as she pelted back to camp and dragged a squirrel off the pile and dug in.

"Hey Starpaw!" She looked up to see Thistlepaw, the meanest apprentice in the Clan. (Sorry IDK, SOMEONE had to be the villain!) "Who said you get first pick off the fresh-kill pile?" Starpaw shook her head. "Poor Thistlepaw, always thinking she'll be leader when she has NO chance. I'm sure when Thunderclaw becomes

leader after Whitestar, he'll choose anyone but you." Thistlepaw growled. "Just because Whitestar mentors you doesn't mean that your a leader now or anything!!! Humph!" She turned her back and went back towards the apprentices den.

Chapter 2

Starpaw batted at a pesky butterfly that kept flapping in her face when she closed her eyes. She unsheathed her claws and finally clawed one of it's wings off, making it fly in circles. She mrrowed a laugh then sat up and stretched. Foxpaw also looked up and looked at her with a confused expression. "Um... why is there a one-winged butterfly in the den?"

Starpaw laughed again. "It was annoying so I clawed one of it's wings off." "You are so cruel." "Says the tom who trapped a live mouse under your claws and tortured it until you killed it!" He lashed his tail and left the den without another word. Starpaw walked out and stretched into the warming new-leaf sun. Leaf-bare was finally ending. "Starpaw! Come on the Dawn Patrol with us!" She looked over and saw her friends Deerpaw and Badgerpaw, calling her over. Whitestar waved his tail as he padded down the passage leading downwards from the hill which had the medicine cat's den and Leader's den. "You can go. Thunderclaw can take you and help you train." Her father padded over and brushed his tail over her ear. "Then I could see how good your doing."

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The six cats headed out of camp and into the forest, Badgerpaw's mentor Birchfall leading. The senior warrior had had two apprentices before him, and was a respected cat who was almost appointed deputy. Even though Thunderclaw's secret was out, Whitestar trusted him to become his deputy and one day lead his Clan. Thunderclaw's real kits, Blackflower, Skypelt, and Eclipsestrike were in SandClan with their mother Hazeltail. Deerpaw's mentor Petalfall padded beside him and Deerpaw and Badgerpaw padded beside Starpaw